

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] The use of heat can also be used as an alternate method of cutting tissue. Intense heat can be used to burn, or ablate tissue, to create a small hole in material such as bone tissue. The creation of a small hole in a bone can provide access to the underlying tissue. The use of heat eliminates the formation of bone fragments, and cauterizes blood vessels at the same time the cutting is performed. This procedure also permits cutting where mechanical cutting is difficult due to location or because of the bones being readily subject to collateral damage. The procedure applies no pressure, and subsequently no shear stresses are created in the bone during the procedure, as well as a minimum of damage to surrounding tissues. Tests showing the procedure of cutting bone, i.e. using a bone from a cow, demonstrates the ability to use this procedure/technique. As shown in Figure 1, a hole 10 has been drilled into a bone 20 of a couple of millimeters in diameter with only slight damage 30 to the surrounding bone tissue. The bone is positioned next to a scale in centimeters. The hole 10 has a generally circular shape with a diameter of approximately 0.5 cm, and is white due to residual ash in the hole 10. The hole 10 does not go all the way through the bone 20. There is a slight amount of charring 30 of the surrounding area of the bone. The procedure involves forming a mixture of hydrogen and oxygen; delivering the mixture through a capillary with an internal diameter of about 200 micrometers, reacting the mixture at the tip of the capillary and applying the combusting mixture to the bone. The heat causes a breakdown of the bone and the capillary is advanced through the bone, forming a hole. There are no splinters produced and the reaction products are biologically harmless.